

# The News Argus

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*"It is amazing how a group of people could create such artwork without machines or any other tools"*

Akeisha Gaither, student

## Art & Soul

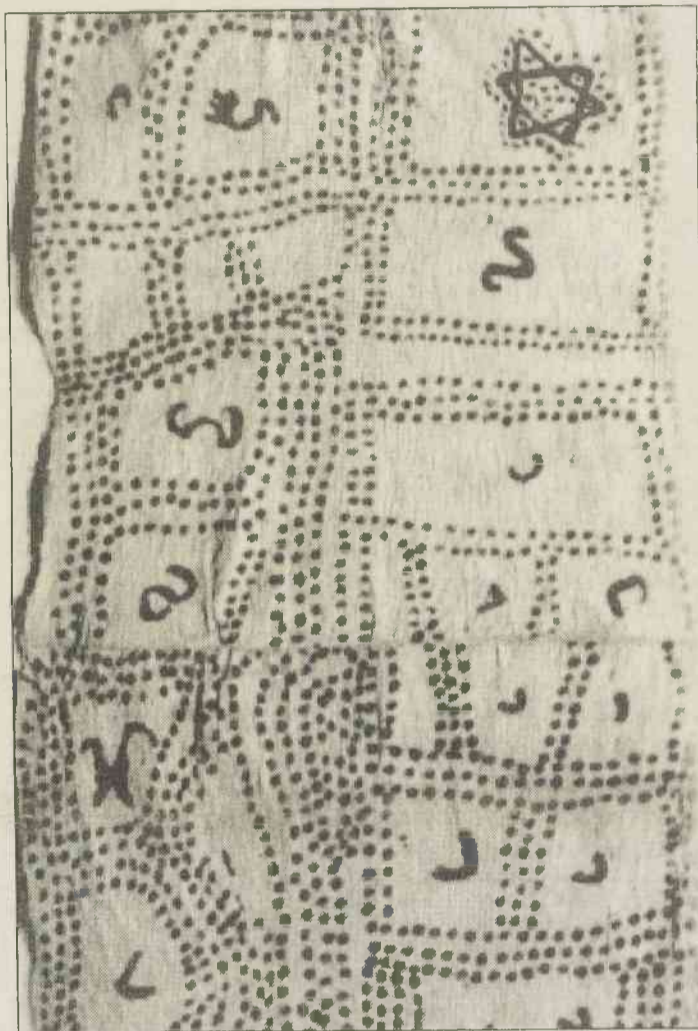
ALEXANDRIA FERGUSON  
Reporter

In celebration of Black History Month, the Diggs Gallery at Winston-Salem State University is featuring 37 examples of bark paintings by the Mbuti women. In addition to over three dozen Mbuti bark paintings on display, the exhibition is enhanced by 14 black-and-white photographs by Elisabeth Sunday. This exhibit will be on display until April 1, 1999.

The Mbuti women reside in the Ituri Forest of Zaire. Once known as the pygmies, the Mbuti women are artists, architects, choreographers, and composers. The women are the creators of the artwork that is displayed in Diggs Gallery.

"It feels like a piece of construction paper. It is amazing how a group of people could create such artwork without machines or any other tools," said sophomore Akeisha Gaither. The bark cloth is used for ritual dress worn in rites of passage, other celebrations such as weddings, funerals, and dances. Men take the fiber from the inner bark of several different trees. They pound it with mallets of ivory or wood to smooth out the texture of the bark. The women gather fruits and plants that provide the pigment of the bark. They create paintings and drawings using their fingers as the main tool and their laps for support.

The forest is their god and sanctuary, it is the core of the Mbuti women's culture. The Mbuti women's perception of the forest is a mystery and their interpretation is expressed through song, dance, storytelling, and painting. Robert Farris wrote in *Mbuti Design*, "The art of Mbuti women challenges conventional art history, the latter grounded it in the work of male by women who are also architects, choreographers and composers of rich, yodel-inflected, singing. The women's work provides an alternative canon that arises from forests not from monumental cities."



Courtesy of Diggs Gallery

**In An Eternity of Forest: Paintings by Mbuti Women; exhibit is on display at the Diggs Gallery.**

In the photograph entitled, *Healer*, taken in 1989, the photograph has a Mbuti woman bare from the waist up and shows her performing a ritual ceremony. "The painting can be interpreted that the women are one with nature. They are divine source of beginnings," said student Darius Wall.

This exhibit will be praised and enjoyed by students, faculty, staff and the community. "It defines at its best, and will be celebrated here, on our campus for months to come," said Larry Patterson, a mass communications major.

## Home and beach top break list

DARRYL SMITH AND JOY SCOTT  
Reporters

Warm weather, bright sun, half-naked people, convertibles with booming systems and spring break!!!! It's getting warmer students, and spring break is just around the corner. Have you made your spring break plans yet? Spring time '99 is coming, March 5 through 14 and a poll was taken on where some of Winston Salem State students and faculty would be going on their days off.

Spring break is the time when most people want to go home and chill. For many of those interviewed, home includes the "Queen City," Raleigh and Durham. After all, nothing can beat the great taste of home-cooked food and being able to sleep in your own comfy bed.

"After a few months you get tired of the campus-life," commented one freshman, who wanted to remain anonymous, "...and the cafeteria food just can't compete with my momma's cooking."

This year, some students of WSSU have other plans.

The University Choir, headed by D'Walla Burke, will be touring on their break. They will be hitting places up and down the East Coast. The main purpose will be to represent the school by exposing one of the many talents that this school and its students possess. Students, Franklin (Poe) Poe, Jason (Speedy G) Franklin, and Anthony (Chocolate

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## Lady Rams try to get along without Blackwell

RASHEED OLUWA  
Sports editor

The Winston-Salem State Lady Rams entered the basketball season with high hopes and expectations, but now find their season teetering on uncertainty.

After being chosen to finish first in the Western Division by pre-season coaches polls, the Lady Rams have gone on to have a season that's been earmarked by inconsistency. First, they lost their starting point guard, Nikki Blackwell, early in the season due to knee injury. In order to compensate for this, the Lady Rams have had to rely on a three-headed point guard attack consisting of

senior Erica Leggett, sophomore Lakisha Covington, and freshman Shonketa Broom.

Each brings something positive to the table, but also a weakness. Leggett brings leadership, experience, and outside shooting to the position. While at the same time being team's most consistent perimeter scorer. Playing point guard takes away from Leggett's scoring. Covington brings quickness and baseline to baseline defensive pressure. But in terms of height, she makes Muggsy Bogues look like Shawn Bradley, and she has difficulty manufacturing her shot in a half court offense. She also gets killed on picks, and can get manhandled by bigger more physical guards. Broom brings scoring to the

position, but she's only a freshman and she's prone to making freshman mistakes.

"Adjusting to the loss of Nikki has been hard," says assistant coach Terri Eanes. "There was so much that she did for us. Now we have to be more patient with our offense."

Although the loss of Blackwell had a hard effect on the team, head coach Debra Clark refuses to blame the Lady Rams disappointing solely on her loss.

"We still had the potential to play a whole lot better," says Clark. "Our inconsistency has been our

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